

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Linton Commercial Historic District

other names/site number 055-362-26001-26092

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by B Street North, 1st Street East, N/A ☐ not for publication
A Street South, & 1st Street West

city or town Linton N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Greene code 055 zip code 47441

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.

- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-state
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
66	12	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
66	12	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

GOVERNMENT: city hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

SOCIAL: clubhouse

RECREATION/CULTURE: theater

EDUCATION: library

DOMESTIC: hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional

GOVERNMENT: city hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

EDUCATION: library

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

MODERN: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

c.1875-1956

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Patton & Miller

Fredrick, Erwin T.

Mesker, George & Company

Linton Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Greene County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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4	8	5	5	0	0
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4	3	2	0	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

1	6
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4	8	5	8	7	0
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4	3	2	0	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

1	6
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4	8	5	8	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	2	0	5	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	6
---	---

4	8	5	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	2	0	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Walker and Paul Diebold

organization Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology date 07-18-2006

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city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204-2739

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description

The Town of Linton, Indiana, is located in the southeastern portion of Indiana. Roughly twenty miles due west, the Wabash River winds its way southward toward confluence with the Ohio. The terrain of this part of the state escaped glaciation during the last Ice Age and so retains its gently rolling hills. Goose Pond, a remnant of the original extensive wetlands that bordered the Wabash, survives just west of town. While the site of the town is roughly level, there is an overall downward grade to the west.

The plat of the town is an orthogonal pattern. Main, 1st SE, and Vincennes Street have sixty-six foot right-of-ways while other streets have sixty foot right-of-ways. All buildings have masonry exteriors, with styles and dates of construction ranging from c.1870 to c.1950.

The district includes 66 contributing buildings and 12 non-contributing buildings. Buildings substantially altered or built after the period of significance do not contribute to the significance of the district.

Individual building descriptions**South Main Street, west side**

158 S. Main Street, c.1900, photo 2, contributing.

The building to the left has two commercial bays. In 1915, the building housed a restaurant in the south bay, and boarding rooms upstairs. In 1921, the boarding room function remained, but the ground floor spaces became a plumbing supply (south) and a grocery (north). The boarding and restaurant uses reflect the proximity of the combination depot that once served the community, located just one block behind these buildings.

The southern most block at a 158 is a two story, brick commercial block with flat roof. The storefronts retain the original cast iron storefront made by Thatcher A. Parker Company of Terre Haute. Original shop windows have been covered or replaced with vertical metal siding. Surviving cast iron elements include the main building corner pilasters, ornamented with a curvilinear vine motif at the base, necking moldings, a capital with fleur-de-lys, all supporting a rectangular "bush-hammered" corbel block. Storefront corners still have colonette-style supports of cast iron; these were cast with raised relief vine ornamentation. The steel lintel beams are plain with simple rosettes. The upper bays have pilaster strips and a band above the windows laid in tan brick, while panels around the windows are red brick. Pilaster strips define the corners and center stairway bay. At some point, the owner installed shorter windows in the three openings on either side of the stairway bay. Stone sills remain in place, the tan brick banding defines the window opening top. A run of tan brick corbelling is atop the windows. The parapet has coping tiles.

140 South Main Street (photo 2), contributing.

The red brick building immediately north of the two-part block was built sometime between 1915 and 1921. It replaced a small one story wooden store. In 1921, its purpose was noted on Sanborn maps as "Taxi Service." The storefront has a series of narrow window openings, now bricked shut. The upper floor has two windows with brick lintels, and the entablature of the building has multiple layers of corbel work.

Description-continued

84-78 South Main Street, photo 4 (left), contributing.

This two story, masonry commercial block is the south anchor of a solid run of historic buildings on the west side of Main, extending nearly to Vincennes Street. Its foundation is limestone. The first floor cast iron storefront was manufactured by Hetherington & Berner of Indianapolis and has an intact maker's name plate. While the fenestration and doors appear to have been altered at various times in the past, the iron pilasters and massive lintel remain intact. Each pilaster has a tall plinth with terminating cyma molding, fluted shaft, and modified Cornithian capital. The southernmost of the three storefront bays appears to have a c.1920s configuration with brick base, large window, and recessed entry. The transom area is boarded over. The other storefronts have a 1950s design with flush doors and smaller windows set on a false brick base.

The second floor has cherry red brick laid in stretcher bond, with four window openings symmetrically placed along the Main Street front. Each opening has paired 1/1 double hung sash, with stone sills and flat arch stone lintels. Each lintel has raised radiating end stones (springers) and taller raised keystones. The entablature a brick corbel table, each corbel was formed by laying two headers, capped by a stringer, in turn capped by two headers, courses corbelling outward. A continuous, projecting stone cornice runs atop the corbel table, and a short brick parapet with stone copings rests on top of this. The building dates from about 1900. In 1915, the south bay contained a millenary shop; the middle bay, an undertaker; and the north bay, a confectioner's store. By 1921, the undertaker business had expanded into the north bay, and the south bay was simply labeled "office."

The next building to the north, 74 South Main (second from left in photo 4, contributing), appears to be three stories high, although Sanborn maps consistently record it as a two story building. It was built c.1895. The storefront is covered with board and batten siding of fairly recent vintage, however, the transomed doorways and overall design are likely original if not early 20th century in date. The flanking limestone columns have massive rock-faced plinths with dressed margins and simple banded columns with cushion capitals supporting a small rock-faced corbel block that bears under a deep I-beam steel lintel. The second floor has four window openings that are boarded shut. The base of this floor and the pilasters dividing the windows are of red face brick; a frieze of brick with two stone belt courses runs beneath the window openings. The Romanesque Revival, massive, deep-set pilasters have stone bases; the pilaster edges were built of radius-corner molded brick. The capitals consist of narrow bands of corbelled simple rough stone. The upper parapet appears to have been veneered in limestone in c.1950. Throughout the first decades of the 1900s, a lunch counter and pool hall/saloon occupied the first floor of 74 S. Main. In the 'teens, a cigar factory filled the second floor, but by 1921, the second floor was vacant. Currently in use as a dry cleaner.

72 South Main Street, photo 4 (right center), contributing.

Three separate businesses now occupy what was originally two commercial spaces with a load bearing firewall dividing the southern 1/3 from the northern 2/3rds. The first floor retains the most intact cast iron storefront in town. Some transom areas are boarded over, and an owner added a louvered sun screen and marquee over a portion of the northern bays. The storefronts, however, do retain original (or early) wooden recessed panel kick plates, transom glass, and large single light doors with brass hardware as well as the

Description-continued

overall configuration. Mesker of Evansville, Indiana very likely supplied the cast iron work. No maker's plate survives, however, the same simple pilasters with seashell motif at the top are found on several Mesker-marked buildings in Linton. Upper floors are tan face brick with continuous stone belt course sills and deep lintels framing the nine bays of fenestration divided by brick piers. The southern three openings are boarded, while the other windows are contemporary replacements with a painted metal transom panel to fill the extra space. The upper wall area has a soldier course belt, followed by a blank brick parapet with stone coping. The southern 1/3 of the building served as a grocery store from at least 1915-1921. The northern 2/3rds of the block was home to a furniture company from at least 1915 into the 1940s. In 1915, the building was noted on Sanborn maps as "Furniture and Undertaker;" later maps simply indicate that the furniture store occupied both levels of the building. Maps also show a rear two story warehouse annex, connected by a breezeway structure of some type. None of the rear sections remain today.

Linton Masonic Hall, 44 South Main Street, photo 4 (right), contributing.

The c.1900 Masonic Hall is among the taller buildings in the district at three stories high. The flanks and rear wall of the building are common bond red brick, but the Main Street façade is honey-colored face brick. The tall first story storefront has two bays. While updated with more recent materials, the basic design elements – transom height, recessed doorways, shop glass areas – appear to be original or early in date. The cast iron work is similar to the neighboring building to the south, and marked with a Mesker name plate. Above the storefronts, a stone cornice divides the building horizontally. The two story wall section, with two sets of triple windows on each floor, is framed by corbelling so that the entire surface is a large recessed panel, with raised central pilaster strip. Each triple window group has brick piers dividing the window units, as well as continuous dressed stone sills and deep, dressed stone continuous entablatures. The south section of the building has a steel fire escape between the 3rd and 2nd floors; this appears to be noted on Sanborn maps as early as 1915. The parapet space over the recessed panel has a large carved limestone tablet with the Masonic insignia on it. The tablet interrupts a narrow belt course of darkly glazed terra cotta. Over this, a massive, dark glazed terra cotta cornice runs across the top of the building. A hardware store utilized the first two stories in the 'teens and 'twenties; the local Masonic Lodge continued to meet here into the 1950s.

36 South Main Street, photo 4 (right), contributing.

This two story tan brick building is similar in style to the Masonic Lodge next door. Mesker produced the cast iron work for the storefront, according to the name plate at the base of one of the pilasters.

This two story brick store has a cast iron front. The glazing, doors, canopy and other elements of the storefront are of materials from the '60s or '70s. The upper floor shares the same color of brick, 3-bay window arrangement and stone work as the neighboring lodge building. The upper parapet has three projecting belt courses of brick separated by several courses of flush brick. At the top, discolored brick seems to indicate a missing cornice of unknown material. A dry goods store did business from here from at least 1915-1941.

Description-continued

30 South Main Street, photo 4 (right), non-contributing.

This narrow, two story brick building was severely altered in the 1970s. Contemporary brick has total obscured the façade. A barber shop owned or rented here for a number of years in the early 1900s.

28 South Main Street, photo 4 (right), contributing..

Though altered, this two story brick commercial block retains a cast iron front of uncertain manufacture, and an oriel window. The wooden and asphalt shingle shed roof awning and other storefront elements are of recent vintage.

The upper floor has a single, centered, three-sided oriel window, an early or original feature that is noted on Sanborn maps. A drug store operated here for a number of years in the early 1900s, on through the early 1940s.

North Main Street, west side

I.O.O.F. Building, 12 North Main Street, contributing.

Built in 1892, the Italianate style Odd Fellow's Lodge has a Hetherington & Berner cast iron storefront with later alterations. The upper brick walls have four narrow windows with pediment-shaped sheet metal hoods. The wall area above the windows has three carved stone tablets with Odd Fellow's symbols (chain links) and the center one has raised letters spelling "IOOF." The bracketed entablature is of stamped sheet metal. The Odd Fellows continued to use this building past 1941. For many years they rented the first floor to a haberdasher.

J.S. Myers Building, 54 North Main Street, photo 11, contributing

Built in c.1890, in the first decades of the 20th century, this building housed a saloon, by the 1920s, a clothing store; it is currently a bar and has been so for at least 10-15 years. Although the awning roof, small windows and wood vertical board of the storefront are recent in date, the central recessed entrance is likely the original configuration. The cast iron pilasters and I-beam lintel are similar to other Mesker designs in town, but name plate is missing. The pilasters have a tall base with cyma mold, necking moldings dividing off a panel with rosette, and an anthemion decorated capital. The second floor brick walls are punctuated by a large centered round arched window opening flanked by one narrow window on either side. Each has a sheet metal hood with angle brackets and a pedimented cap and stone sills. Windows are replacement units or are boarded shut. The deep entablature has sheet metal brackets, larger ones at the corner and supporting the central cross gable, and two shorter ones on either side of the gable. Stringcourses connect the brackets and form blank friezes. A metal cornice also joins the tops of the brackets and gable. Raised letters spell "J.S.MYERS." along the base of the gable, also there is a triangle of embossed diaper work in the gable. The visible side wall along the south is brick, with short windows that have stone sills and lintels. The parapet steps upward to meet the tall entablature in front.

Description-continued

Opera House, 58-68 North Main Street, photo 11, contributing

Similar in style and date to the Myers Building, the Opera House spans two store bays. The storefronts have been altered, and have new sheets of glass, doors and brick base walls. A shaped cloth awning covers the north half. The upper floor has six bays, with three narrow single openings in the center, flanked by taller double window openings, with single narrow standard windows then completing each end bay. The entablature of painted sheet metal is very similar to that of the Myers Building, except that the center gable ornament's raised letters spell out "OPERA HOUSE" and the raised diamond pattern in the gable panel is different.

The upper floor served as a opera house. By 1915, the first floor south bay was a movie house, the north bay was unused, and a pool room occupied the entire second floor.

74 North Main Street, photo 11 (right), non-contributing.

Two historic buildings once stood on this site. Most recently, the vacant lot to the north resulted from a fire that destroyed a brick two story building. The remaining one story metal clad building was built in about 1960.

Fourth Vein Coal Company Department Store, 110-116 N. Main Street, photo 12, contributing.

One of the Linton area's larger mining companies built this commercial block to offer mining supplies, clothes, and other household goods to its employees and the public. The c.1890 building stretches one block deep along A Street and over one-half block wide along Main. It appears that the company updated all the storefronts in about 1920, judging from the Rookwood-like tile used for the storefront kick panels. Unfortunately, an owner painted most of the tile work at some point, though, a few storefronts still have exposed mottled green tiles. The Luxfer-style storefront transoms are also from this later remodeling. Textured dark red face brick also frames each storefront and is used along the entire first floor south wall. Above this, brick walls are parged. There are thirteen bays of segmental arched window openings, each has a raised paneled keystone. Early 2/2 wood windows fill some the openings, others are shuttered or boarded shut. The upper parapet is an elaborate Romanesque Revival study in corbel work. A corbel table projects the wall surface forward, while two stepped up areas of the parapet have blind round arch arcades along Main Street. Several parapet sections along A Street have corbelled back square panels aligned across them. Tile coping caps the parged brick walls. There is a small, one story section of similar style (including the Arts & Crafts storefront treatment) immediately north on Main Street. It appears that the company built this small addition (130 N. Main) to fill a vacant gap between the department store and a two story building to the north.

140 North Main Street, photo 12 (right), contributing.

130 N. Main, c.1900, is a two story brick commercial block. Brick piers divide the storefront into four bays, the first, stairs to the upper floor, then a shop window, door, and window, the windows with recessed low brick bases. The upper floor has four evenly placed segmental arched windows with stone sills.

Description-continued

Double header courses form the arches. A double stretcher course of protruding brick make up a stringcourse above the windows, and a modest corbel frieze of recessed stacked headers alternating with flush stacked headers completes the parapet.

Telephone Exchange Building, 140 North Main Street, photo 12 (right), contributing.

A telephone company built this structure in about 1910. It remained the town's telephone switchboard exchange well into the 1940s. The building is one story in height but was likely built with a tall ceiling to allow for bulky equipment. The exterior is brick with simple limestone detail. Four tall pilasters with stone bases and simple stone slab capitals articulate the façade, supporting a stone belt, brick frieze and deep stone cornice. The roofline has a parapet with raised central panel. The recessed wall panels in between the pilasters have horizontal windows on the first level and upper level square windows, all sash appear to be replacements. The wood door with broken pediment surround in the south bay is a c.1960 replacement.

Elks Club, 190 North Main Street, photo 15, contributing.

The only residential structure in the district, the Elks Club has been in service longer as a social club longer than it was as a residence. The core of the building is a c.1895 Queen Anne/Romanesque Revival 2 ½ story brick house. The original complexly massed roof is visible, as is the chamfered front gable projection, side gable, and south upper walls. Several of the upper floor windows of the house have massive dressed stone round arches. The front gable has a triple window group with taller center window, imbricated wood shingles, corner tracery masking the chamfered walls below, bargeboard and brackets. The Arts & Crafts era porch has square brick piers, brick knee walls with stone coping, a concrete floor and flat roof with simple wooden balustrade. The piers project above the roofline and a wood cornice wraps around the porch roof. The lodge added the porch and large gable roof addition to the rear sometime before 1921. The Elks also added the one story single bay deep addition along the north wall before about 1950. The lodge remained here until the 1980s.

South Main Street, East side

American Legion Building, 139 South Main, photo 1, non-contributing.

This two story building dates from the early 1950s. In c.2005, the Legion completed a major rehabilitation of the building, including addition of a gable roof with Post-Modern style full entablature and pediment.

Linton Post Office, 109 South Main, photo 1, contributing.

Architect of the Treasury Louis Simon designed the red brick U.S. Post Office for Linton, completed in 1934. Charles H. Barnes was the contractor. The lots, numbers 12 and 14 in Humphrey's Second Addition to Linton, were vacant when Federal officials bought the site and planned the structure. The footprint is L-shaped, with the large main mass in front and a service area extending off of the northeast corner. Planners sited the building somewhat back from the street so that a modest lawn fills the front and side parts of the lot. The main portion of the building is one and one-half stories high, with a brick foundation, brick walls,

Description-continued

and limestone moldings and ornamentation. The first story is raised above grade about three feet and is tall, where the second (attic) story is scant. Brick bonding is in an English garden wall style, with alternating rows of headers and stretchers. All finished walls have a dressed stone water table. Corners are marked with raised brick quoin work.

The five-bay front elevation faces west, on to Main Street. The center bay houses the main entrance and is marked by a dressed limestone tetrastyle portico with slender stone columns with simplified Corinthian capitals. The entablature and pediment have simplified moldings, the tympanum is blank. The only enrichment is that the cornice has a dentil molding. Stone wingwalls flank the steps leading to the front doors. The entry surround is of white painted wood, with simple pilaster moldings and entablature framing a set of large doors with large transom. Two windows stand on either side of the entrance; each has plain reveals with no window surround, a flat arch-shaped lintel with raised keystone, executed in dressed limestone. Window sash are 12/12 double hung with narrow eight-light transom with narrow molded stone sill. Above each window, a blank dressed stone tablet fills the wall space between window lintel and the building's entablature. Each tablet has dropped tabs at the lower corners. The simple entablature with denticulated cornice mold is topped by a shallow parapet of several courses of brick and stone cap. On the roof, recessed dormers break up the short hip roof, which covered in flat terra-cotta roofing tiles.

The other finished elevations continue the 12/12 windows with flat arch lintel and stone tablets. The A Street side has a side entrance with handicap ramp in the first bay, three regular windows, an (original) narrow slit window, then, a high-set small 8/8 window. The rear wing, likely a loading dock and function area, is set back from the main portion and more simple in detail.

99 and 97-79 South Main Street, photo 3, both non-contributing.

The southernmost building, at the corner of A and Main Streets, is covered in metal siding and has plate glass storefront windows. A two story brick "hitching barn" stood on this site until several years ago. The building immediately north of it includes several small buildings that over time were united into one. Portions of the building(s) did retain the original masonry parapet, but, within the last year, has been altered so that it no longer contributes to the significance of the district. In 1921, this building was an auto garage.

77 South Main Street, photo 3 (center), contributing.

A merchant sold furniture and stoves from this storehouse in the 'teens and 'twenties. Walls are two stories high, of brick with stone detailing. From about c.1950 until the late 1990s, this building had a Cararra glass-like storefront with metal flat marquee awning, which it shared with the building to the north. The owner removed this treatment at some point in recent years and installed vertical board siding over the transom area. The original large I-beam lintel with rosettes spans the top of the storefront area. Upper floor has red face brick walls. Four bays of window openings divided by brick piers, with continuous stone sills and deep lintels, are centered on the second floor. The sash are replacements, with a painted metal transom panel. The tall parapet includes a brick belt course over the stone window lintels, composed of slightly projecting headers sandwiching a soldier course. The entablature includes a brick corbel table; in the center, two corbelled piers extend above the copings and frame a raised center section, also with corbel table. Two larger corbelled corner piers frame the entire upper parapet wall.

Description-continued

75 South Main Street, photo 3 (center), contributing.

This building had an interesting evolution to its present appearance. Likely built in about 1900, an early owner ran a motorcycle shop in a one story building on this lot. Sometime between 1921 and 1941, either the second story was added or the original building removed, resulting in a two story brick commercial block that housed an auto garage. The dates correspond well to the dark burgundy red face brick of the upper walls and the simple Arts & Crafts laying techniques used to construct them. The storefront is white painted wood and does not appear to retain any historic elements. The second floor has three window openings. The center oriel window was added c.2000, along with the flanking window box units. Each opening has a simple soldier course brick lintel. The upper parapet is marked by a horizontal rectangular panel defined by slightly projecting header brick. Two bands of projecting header brick form belts at the roofline, the coping is limestone.

Peoples Trust Company, 59 South Main Street, photo 3 (left), contributing.

Monumental limestone walls and Neo-Classical Revival vocabulary mask a series of four separate bays of commercial space. It is possible that the façade was added over four separate buildings that are now one; Sanborn maps show the same 32' bays from 1915-1941, but with no coding for stone until the 1921 map. The stonework is veneered over brick bearing walls. Although the two entrances and overall design give the impression of symmetry, the building is in fact not balanced, perhaps another concession to the pre-existing structures on the site. The façade has a channeled, rusticated base. A stone belt forms window sills for the first floor. The second floor continues the rusticated, channeled dressed stone work. A plain frieze with projecting belt doubles as an entablature for the first floor and as base for the second. Each entrance bay is flanked by single window openings on each floor, the channeled stone joints forming splayed flat arch lintels over each. The first floor window sill then serves as a base for the flanking two story monolithic Roman Doric columns in antis that frame the recessed doorway with second floor window above it. This "single window-recessed door-single window" group stands at the south end of the building and is repeated again 2/3rds of the way toward the north end. Between these entry sections are bays with wide window openings. Current windows are horizontal aluminum units. Another entablature with plain frieze runs atop the second floor, followed by a tall blank wall section, then, a table of shallow modillion-like brackets with cornice, with larger scrolls emphasizing the entrance bay divisions along the roof line. The parapet adds to the eclectic feeling with a stepped almost crenellated-like treatment. The visible alley side wall is common brick.

A variety of important businesses and governmental functions served the community from this building. In 1921, for example, the Linton Post Office was located in the south section, first floor, with the Western Union Telephone Company located upstairs; Peoples Trust Company was and is located in the northern section; also at one point a five-and-dime store was in one of the bays. The Post Office likely stayed here until construction of their new facility in the early 1930s. In more recent years the Masonic Lodge moved here from across the street, and they still meet here.

Description-continued

5 North Main Street, contributing.

The building dates from about 1910. The storefront has been altered but probably always had a central entrance with shop windows on either side. A convex rigid awning shelters the first floor. The side wall facing Vincennes Street and the upper Main Street elevation are veneered in narrow coursed rough limestone. Four 1/1 windows are evenly spaced along the Main Street side, whose parapet rises well above them. Two massive stone pediments, one for each window pair, are above the windows. The upper parapet is ornamented with a broad rectangular panel and engaged, faceted pier/finials that break the flat coping line with cap and ball style finials. The Vincennes Street elevation has high-set window openings on the first floor (now boarded over), and a pilaster with entablature surround from a former side-facing commercial bay, now closed off with painted boards. Paired windows are aligned along the second floor, with the parapet rising higher at either end. In between, the lower parapet also has a classical cornice molding that abruptly stops where the parapet rises at either end. A saloon and cigar factory were here in 1915; a bank moved in by 1921 and was still here in the 1940s. The now vacant side bay continuously housed a barber shop into the 1940s.

7 North Main Street, contributing.

7 N. Main is a two story brick commercial building. A metal flat awning, painted wood and newer doors and windows comprise the storefront. Upper walls are brick. Three windows are symmetrically placed on the second floor, the center window is wider than the flanking ones. The 1/1 sash appear to be replacements. Each has a rock-faced stone lintel. The parapet has a band of alternating recessed and flush brick work, over which is a corbel table.

13 North Main Street, contributing.

Brick walls rise only one story high on the front of this small store. The first floor has shop windows resting on kick plates, flanking a recessed doorway. A c.1960 flat awning, shared with 7 N. Main, obscures part of the transom area. A steel lintel with rosettes is visible above the awning. Bricklayers for this small building laid a distinctive belt of three courses of staggered sawtooth brick with header courses above and below. The brick frieze over this has three rectangular panels of sawtooth brick. A deep brick corbel table completes the upper parapet. A confectionary satisfied Linton's sweet tooth from this shop for many years in the early 1900s.

15 North Main Street (photo 18, right), contributing.

Both 15 N. Main and 5 N. Main are limestone veneered in a similar type and dimension of stone. 17-19 N. Main has two commercial bays and is two stories in height. The first floor storefronts have more recent doors and glass shop windows, but the basic two part design with recessed entries is probably similar to the original intent. Vertical board siding and a flat metal awning obscure the transom. Recently, the owner added rustic braced posts along the front of the awning. The upper floors have narrow course rough-faced limestone walls, with six openings for 1/1 wood windows. The windows are arranged in two groups of three, with the center opening of each group being slightly wider. Lintels are dressed stone and are flat,

Description-continued

except over the wider window openings, where they are pediment shaped. The parapet accents the window opening rhythm by stepping up above the wider openings. The coping is cornice shaped. At various times in the first half of the 1900s, a boot and shoe store, drug store, and, on the second floor, a photo studio, have rented space in this building. Back behind this building, a series of additions housed an ice cream factory and candy factory, probably associated with the confectioner's next door.

49 North Main Street (photo 18), contributing.

This narrow building extends through to the alley. Side walls are common brick, but the front wall is dark red face brick. The first floor has a cast-iron storefront with nameplate from Thatcher A. Parker. The pilasters have the serpentine vine motif at the base and fleur-de-lys capital seen on other Parker iron fronts in the district. The storefront windows and concrete block kick wall areas are more recent in vintage, as is the flat metal awning, now decorated with lattice work. The turned porch posts are recent additions. The brick upper story is carried on a large I-beam with rosettes. A narrow rock-faced stone course runs atop the I-beam. Both corners of the upper floor are braced by square piers that project outward slightly. Each pier has recessed panel brickwork. The wall area between has three similar corner-tabbed recessed rectangular panels. An oculus vent with decorative iron grate is centered above the panels. The overscaled brick corbelling enriches the forward-projected parapet, which has a raised center panel and the corner piers breaking the skyline. A saloon was open here in 1915, but by 1921, one of several movie houses in Linton was in this building.

55 North Main Street (photo 16, center right), contributing.

A two story, one bay wide brick building stands on this site. The storefront has been substantially remodeled in recent decades, including new brick surrounding the doors and large shop windows. This front shares a metal flat awning with 59 N. Main. The transom is blocked off. Second floor walls are gray painted brick. Three 1/1 windows light the upper floor; a continuous stone sill unites them. Each has a deep rock-face stone lintel, however, the center window is taller and therefore its lintel is above the flanking ones. The corbelled parapet rests on a brick corbel table. Next, a stone belt runs across, and a tall wall area with overscale brick chevron pattern is over the belt. Follow another brick belt, rough stone copings line the flat parapet top. A grocery and a boot and shoe store are two known uses of this building in the 'teens and 'twenties.

57 North Main Street (photo 16), contributing.

Similar to its neighbor to the south, but simpler in detail, this two story brick building also has an altered storefront and awning like 55 N. Main. The upper floor has four 1/1 windows: a matched pair in the center with single units on either side. While the pair share dressed stone sills and lintels, the side windows are treated individually. The windows are set within a recessed wall panel, framed by tall pilaster strips on either side that rise to the parapet. A brick corbel table spans flush between the pilasters at the top of the building. A meat and grocers were here for decades in the early 1900s. By 1941, a photo studio was on the second floor.

Description-continued

59-69 North Main Street (photo 16), non-contributing

Originally two separate one story buildings, later owners altered the historic character of the building by changing the upper parapet area. Too little original design and materials remain for the building to contribute to the district.

79 North Main Street (photo 16), contributing

The builder of this store, c.1900, departed from the usual red brick of most of Linton's buildings and selected white glazed face brick for the front elevation. The storefront with central recessed entry seems to date from within the period of significance. The flat metal awning / marquee, however, is from c.1960. Mesker Iron Works provided the cast-iron pilasters and steel I-beam lintel, each pilaster has the usual anthemion casting at the top. The maker's name plate survives on the right pilaster. The transom area is covered in vertical board siding. A section of glazed brick wall rises to the window sills of the second floor. The continuous sill is in the form of a full cornice with dentil molding, all of limestone. Four Romanesque style pilasters rest on top of the cornice, dividing the wider central window from the two flanking 1/1 windows. The pilasters have stone bases and the brick shafts have radius-edged brick, as do the window reveals. The intricate basketweave capitals are engaged into a plain recessed frieze/lintel over the windows. A plain stone entablature slightly projects, to a point even with the pilaster faces. Over this, the parapet has a blank white brick area, rising to a stone cornice with dentil molding, modillions and projecting cornice. On either corner of the front of the building, an overscaled triglyph extend down to the window lintels. The stepped parapet at the top of dressed stone. A millinery, cloaks and coats store operated here from at least 1900-1921.

89 North Main Street (photo 16, left), contributing.

Complimentary to the ladies hat store to the south, a haberdasher set up shop here in by the 'teens and 'twenties. The storefront glazing, brick kick walls, and doors are framed in brushed aluminum, but the original Mesker cast iron pilasters, with maker's plate, still survive. A rigid concave cloth awning covers the first floor along Main Street. The red brick walls have four evenly placed 1/1 windows on the second floor. Each rectangular window is set within a double coursed segmental arched opening with dressed stone sills. Two belts of slightly projecting stretcher bond brick run across the second floor at window arch springer height. The parapet has four blind segmental arched panels and a corbel table. The A Street elevation has small, high-set windows on the first floor and widely spaced segmental arched windows on the second floor.

No address, Northeast corner, North Main Street and A Street NE (photo 17), contributing.

This furniture store replaced a series of three buildings when it was built in about 1955. Modernism heavily influenced its design, with tan brick expanses of wall on the A Street side and a continuous, recessed storefront along Main. The aluminum framed windows and doors are likely original. Aluminum clad posts support the overhanging scant second story. At the front corner, the upper floor has a ribbon style corner window group, framed in raised dressed stone. The horizontal windows are tinted.

Description-continued

141 North Main Street, non-contributing.

Board and batten style wood siding obscure this one story building, however, it is possible that the façade remains intact underneath the added materials.

143 North Main Street, contributing.

A narrow, one story, brick commercial building fills this site. The dark red brick plain parapet appears to date from the 'teens. The cornice is covered with aluminum panels.

145 North Main Street, contributing.

The storefront of this simple brick commercial building is currently hidden behind vertical board siding and an awning. The curvilinear shaped parapet of brick remains intact. It has an inset rectangular recessed brick panel, and modest brick corbelling outlines the concave buttress-like portions of the parapet.

Cine Theater, 161 North Main Street (photo 14), contributing.

Bob and Lawrence Scherer, proprietors, hired Chicago architects Erwin G. Frederick and John T. Fritz in 1938 to build the Cine. To fit the 850 seat theater on the site, the owners and architects were forced to demolish two buildings and the back halves of the surviving buildings to the north. The Main Street bays serve as lobby and entryway, and the auditorium portion is positioned ninety degrees to the front section, extending north from the back of the Main Street section.

The storefront is outlined in large square glazed dark red tiles, which also line the base plate areas of the front. A former ticket booth bay base projects forward from the doors. The splayed walls leading to the doors have brushed metal poster display cases built into them. Piers walls are narrow brick. The south commercial bay has a barber shop in it; this was always a separate store space. The half-parallelogram shape of the projecting, flat marquee is original, however, aluminum panels now cover it. Upper floor walls are of glazed square terra cotta tiles, the main body color is cream. The second floor windows are recessed between radius-edged vertical wall strips. Above the 1/1 windows, green tile lintels with cast relief chevrons mark each window. Vertical green raised moldings continue up the recessed window panels to the rounded edge of the parapet. The pilaster/wall strips are capped by the same chevron tiles, the wider flanking walls have three wide green horizontal stripes just below the parapet. The side wall along the alley is common red brick.

165-173 North Main Street (photo 14), contributing.

Built in about 1895, this two story red brick building had two commercial rental spaces originally. The cast iron storefront is from an undetermined maker. White painted boards cover the transom, and the doors are framed with wood. A flat metal marquee/awning hangs from the front and the deep steel lintel with rosettes is visible. The second floor is more intact. Six windows are on the second floor, grouped into two sets of three: narrow, wide, narrow; narrow, wide, narrow. Sash are in various states of disrepair, or are missing or boarded up altogether. All windows have a continuous dressed stone sill/belt course and

Description-continued

continuous rock-face stone deep lintel/belt. Corbelled pilaster strips divide the upper parapet. Lighter colored brick work indicates that a cornice or corbel table at the top of the roofline was reworked at some point.

175 North Main Street (photo 14), contributing.

This two story red brick commercial building likely dates from about 1895. It has a name plate-marked Mesker cast iron storefront, with pilasters and steel lintel. Boards obscure the transom areas, the north bay also has a sheet metal shed awning. The second floor has an impressive arcade of eight tall round arched openings. Brick pilaster strips carry the linked, massive rock-faced arches. Vertical "quoins" pilasters divide the building in two: one at each corner and one down the center. The strips have alternating dressed and rock-faced blocks. The tall parapet has a deep brick corbel table, with blank section, and another run of continuous corbelled brick, finally, capped by more brick courses and stone copings. Window sash themselves have been removed or boarded over; windows in the north half are new small vinyl units set into the large arches by vinyl siding infill.

A Street North, north side

60 A Street NW, contributing.

A two story brick store occupies this lot. The first owner built a one story brick feed store here, the second story was added c.1950. An owner in the 1950s or '60s remodeled the storefront by installing a brushed aluminum doors and windows with aluminum mullions. The transom area was paneled shut and a metal marquee/awning was added just below the transom. The steel lintel with rosettes remains from what was very likely a cast iron storefront. The pilasters, however, are covered in stone veneer. Upper floors are painted brick with three windows across the front. The parapet has no decorative treatment. Second story windows line the west (visible) side wall, and an additional narrow shop window opens to this side from at the front corner.

Linton Board of Trade Building, No address, immediately east of 60 A Street NW, contributing.

Built c.1910, the Board of Trade Building is another of Linton's stone veneered buildings. Here, the limestone veneer is rock-faced with alternating courses of narrow and wide stones. At some point, the storefronts were altered; the style and materials are similar to 60 A Street and so were likely done by the same owner at the same time. The banded stone-faced piers at each first floor corner are intact as is the steel lintel with rosettes spanning the storefront. Three windows pierce the second floor; the center one is wider, but each are 1/1 sash and each has dressed stone lintels and sills. The sole ornament above is a stone tablet with raised margin and raised letters reading "BOARD OF TRADE" centered in the parapet wall.

40 A Street NE, contributing.

Another one of Linton's stone-veneered buildings, 40 A Street NE has distinctive Romanesque Revival detailing. The limestone front has a monumental arched entrance in the center, inset with a simple

Description-continued

rectangular door. The flanking bays have fixed horizontal picture windows, with raised pilaster strips at the building's corners. A dressed stone entablature divides the first and second stories. The side bays have paired 1/1 windows with shared massive dressed lintels and sills. The center windows are individual, though they are boarded shut.

50-60 A Street NE, contributing.

A large single family house stood on this lot in the early 20th century. By 1915, merchants had built storefronts in front of it and converted it to commercial use. By 1941, the owners demolished the house and this simple, one story brick veneered building with two commercial bays remained. The storefront areas are flush to the exterior wall, with single light wood doors, and shop windows of large square plate glass with brick kick bases. Wall-suspended flat metal marquee-style awnings shade the front. A row of soldier coursing is the only parapet ornament. Side walls are painted concrete block. The massive brick and stone Grand Opera House once stood immediately east of this building.

A Street North, south side.

89 A Street NW, contributing.

Decorative glazed brick enlivens the façade of 89 A Street, built c.1935. The first floor has a garage door opening, outlined in light colored brick. The second floor has walls of cream glazed brick with two metal framed awning windows outlined in "quoined" dark red glazed brick. Diamond shapes of the same red brick ornament the parapet, one in the center placed low, between the windows, the flanking ones placed higher. At various times, an auto repair and building materials shop did business from here.

79 A Street NW, contributing.

A one story, brick commercial building stands here. Dating from about 1910, this small building has a façade of dark green Carrara glass tiles, c.1935. The first floor has boarded shop windows flanking a recessed central entry. A motorcycle and bicycle repair shop were located here in 1915-1921.

Linton City Hall, 59 A Street NW, contributing.

Local contractor L.G. Hise built Linton City Hall to plans drafted by J.T. Fritz, architect. The building, originally housing both city offices and the town's fire station, was completed in 1913. Neo-Classical Revival in style, Linton City Hall is two stories high plus attic, with a flat roof. The façade on A Street has a rusticated base of horizontal channeled dressed limestone with drip molding that forms the first floor window sills. Above this the main wall material is yellow ochre face brick with limestone detailing. The far right (west) bay has a large opening for an overhead door, opening to the original vehicular bay for the fire station equipment. The center bay is a recessed entry with stairs leading to the interior offices. A broad dressed stone arch (hidden under a recently installed awning) spans the opening. There are two window openings in the east half of the first floor, one wider window to the east with a small fixed sash with glass

Description-continued

Block above it, and another beside it filled with glass block. Two square tablets mark either corner of the first floor, the west one has the name of the architect, contractor, and town officials engraved on it. The other tablet has city officials' names. A simple dressed stone entablature divides the first and second stories. The second story is symmetrically composed, with the centered dressed stone tablet spelling "CITY HALL 1912" in raised letters, resting on the entablature. A continuous stone sill in the form of a cornice runs under the windows above the tablet. The windows are grouped in three pairs, with brick wall sections between. The city replaced all sash with glass block at some point, though the opening dimensions were not altered. Another continuous stone entablature serves as the window lintels. The attic level has three symmetrically arranged oculus windows with double header surround and crosshair style muntins. The overhanging hip roof has a cornice molding transitioning from walls to soffit. The wood shingle clad hose tower that rises through the west portion of the front of the roof has a steep hip roof and louvered vents on each face. The side walls of the building were built of common red brick, with stone sills and lintels defining the now-boarded window openings. The Linton Fire Department still uses the building, however, the city is constructing a new fire headquarters nearby. Behind City Hall, a square solid stone one story building, the town jail, still stands. The Linton Electric Light Plant once filled the southwest corner of the block behind City Hall; none of its structures or equipment survive.

49 A Street NE, contributing.

This building is a two story brick commercial structure. At some point in the 1970s or '80s, the owner updated the storefront with T-111 siding, a new shop window, a flush door to the east and a wood framed awning. The second floor has four 1/1 windows: centered, paired windows with wood mullion dividing them, and two individual flanking windows. Each has a large, rock-faced stone lintel. The sheet metal cornice has a plain frieze topped by a frieze of pressed metal classical swags. Large sheet metal brackets mark either end of the parapet. While saloon was here in 1915, Prohibition likely put an end to that use – by 1921, Sanborn maps record a soft drink shop here. Later, a restaurant filled the first floor.

59 A Street NE, contributing.

A narrow brick building with flat roof is shoehorned into this site. The first floor storefront is either lost or obscured by newer brick cladding, recessed central door, and a horizontal window group with high base. The upper walls retain characteristic brick corbel work. A baker plied his trade for many years in this shop.

77 A Street NE, contributing.

An auto sales and service shop was in business here in the 1920s. The building is a one story brick, two bay commercial block with flat roof. The first floor was altered at some point. Store windows were covered or removed, brick and standard windows were installed, and the central entrance marked by a broken pediment surround. Four pilaster strips divide the building from base to parapet, each has stylized tassel detail of raised brick. A brick cornice divides the first floor off from the parapet. The pilaster strips are carried through to the parapet, where they divide a series of brick corbels. Other geometric ornament in the parapet may be stone, now less visible since the building's walls are painted white. More historic auto-related buildings completed this block, however, a fire in c.2003 destroyed them.

Description-continued

89 East A Street NE, non-contributing.

A tire and auto repair shop built this concrete block and brick flat roofed building in 2005, to replace a fire-damaged building. The tire company also built a companion building immediately south facing Vincennes.

West Vincennes Street, north side.

100 West Vincennes Street, non-contributing.

Vertical board and batten wood siding, probably installed c.1980, covers most of this one story building. There is also a garage bay on the east side of the building. Historically, a flour and feed store operated here.

90 West Vincennes Street, contributing.

One story brick walls shelter this small store. The storefront has recent brick knee walls, flush central entry, and new sheet metal stamped to resemble rock-faced stonework filling the window areas. The original steel lintel with rosettes spans the first floor. The upper walls are brick and the parapet has a brick corbel table. A wholesale fruit company used this space in the 'teens and 'twenties.

88-86 West Vincennes Street, contributing.

This two bay wide one story brick building has a parapet that is nearly identical to 90 W. Vincennes. The ground floor, however, has c.1960 brushed metal framed glass doors and windows, all sheltered by a metal roofed awning.

Knights of Pythias Lodge, 74-58 West Vincennes Street (photo 5), contributing

This is one of the few three story buildings in the district. Completed in 1904, the building has tan face brick with dressed stone details. The storefront is clad in wood panels, and some store windows appear to have been replaced in about 1960-70 with modern materials. The transom area is blocked off by a wood shake shingle pent roof awning. Most upper floor windows are boarded shut, yet, the opening pattern and size can be seen. Three sets of triple windows line the second floor, each set with continuous stone lintels and sills. The third floor has two double openings flanking a pair of centered round arches with stone arch. There are horizontal panels above the flanking windows; these may have been transoms. The parapet has a heavy coping cornice with central raised pediment. The pediment contains a relief sculpture of a downward pointed triangle with a bust of a knight in the center, with "19" on the left side and "04" on the other. The fraternal lodge rented the first floor to a wholesale grocer while the lodge met on the third floor.

44 West Vincennes Street (photo 5), contributing.

This two and one-half story brick commercial building, built 1904, has a storefront with central brick pier, wood cased windows and a central one-light door. Cast iron fluted pilasters with a tied ribbon motif at the

Description-continued

top, and a plain steel lintel, support the storefront. A narrow molding terminating in a volute at each end runs above the storefront lintel. The cast iron work has no maker's plate. The transom area is covered or has been rebuilt with wood muntins. The second floor has four boarded window openings with continuous stone lintels and sills. Small square windows are centered over the second floor openings. Each window has individual sills but the lintel is continuous. Above this, the parapet has a modest cornice. A merchant sold general store goods here in the first years of the 1900s; later, a furniture and wallpaper store was here c.1920-c.1940.

42-40 West Vincennes Street (photo 5), contributing.

Two story high brick walls, stone detailing, and a broad, two section storefront are some of the characteristics of this building. The west bay storefront has only windows, no door opening. Store windows have brick kick plate walls. The west corner has a brick pier. The east storefront has a recessed doorway to the east. The transom area is treated much like the transom of 44 W. Vincennes. The second floor has two sets of three windows, with a wider wall section between the sets. Each boarded shut opening has a stone sill and rock-faced stone lintel. The center opening of the west group has a reduced size modern window set within the opening panel. Brick corbelling marks the parapet. One bay housed a saloon, the other a tobacco shop and card playing room in 1915.

34-32 West Vincennes Street (photo 5), contributing.

Mesker Iron Works likely provided the cast iron elements of the storefront of this two story c.1910 building. Though the maker's name plate does not survive, the motifs on the pilasters are similar to other known Mesker fronts in town. Shop windows and doors have been replaced and the transom area covered. The far west bay is a doorway to a staircase. Also, a past owner added a flat marquee style awning just below the transom. A steel lintel with rosettes supports the brick walls above the shop windows. The second floor is asymmetrical, with two linked, rock-faced stone round arch windows that share a common sill. Window openings were filled with wood panels at some point so that the current windows are smaller than the original units. The east half of the second story has three rectangular windows with dressed stone sills and rock-faced lintels. The parapet has a brick corbel table.

28 West Vincennes Street (photo 5), non-contributing.

A quirk in the development of downtown Linton, this extremely narrow building likely derives support from flanking bearing walls of adjacent buildings. The exterior is covered in stucco, the window unit on the second floor is a recent double hung window.

24 West Vincennes Street, (photo 5), contributing.

Thatcher A. Parker produced the cast iron pilasters and steel lintel for this small commercial building, c.1905. The brick parapet lacks ornamentation. A butcher shop used this space from at least 1915-1921.

Description-continued

24 East Vincennes Street, (photo 8), contributing.

Hetherington & Berner cast the iron work for the storefront of this two story, c.1900 brick building. The rest of the storefront has horizontal vinyl siding and a modern residential flush door. The second story windows are boarded shut, but preserve the original opening size. Each has a stone sill and segmental arch header. A simple brick corbel table ornaments the top of the building. At various times in the first half of the 20th century, merchants included a sewing machine business and drug store.

38 East Vincennes Street, (photo 8), contributing.

Two stories high, with brick walls, this building housed Columbia Music Store for many years, as noted in the ghost signage painted on the building and in Sanborn maps. IN 1904, the building housed a saloon. The storefront has architectural elements from the 1950s or '60s, such as a flat metal awning/marquee, metal framed shop windows and glass doors with metal frames. The second floor is much more true to the c.1900 date of construction. The center of the three windows is slightly wider than the flanking openings. Each has 1/1 sash, dressed stone sills and rock-faced lintels. The cornice has a modest brick corbel table.

40 East Vincennes Street, (photo 8), contributing.

The first floor storefront has post WWII materials. The awning and windows are modern, the recessed, angled central entry has metal framed doors and windows. The brick beneath the store windows was also replaced when the storefront was updated. The second floor walls are painted brick, with three window openings. The center window has a smaller window set within the opening, while the other two are simply boarded shut. Each window has a stone sill and rock-faced lintel. The parapet is more intricate than its neighbors, with a course of tassel-like corbel work under a sheet metal decorative cornice with corner brackets. In 1900, this building was a one-story brick structure; by 1904, the second story was added, or, the owner replaced the entire structure with a two story building. A saloon and tobacco & candy store were some of the uses merchants housed here.

42 East Vincennes Street (photo 8), contributing.

Movie theater operators built or replaced the façade of an existing building here in c.1935. The storefront has vertical board siding and other modern materials, but a border of glazed green brick surrounds the newer wood storefront. The rest of the building is composed of cream, green, and burgundy glazed brick. The area above the storefront has square shaped blocks of cream glazed units. A band of green glazed brick runs underneath the window openings. Four piers divide the three window openings. The window openings and panels above them are recessed, with brick jambs forming the transition. The window units are missing or covered, louvered vents fill the openings. A single cream block above each window opening is cast with a ballflower or quatrefoil incised motif. A band of burgundy block runs flush with the pier faces across the top of the window panels. More courses of cream block followed by burgundy block complete the parapet.

Description-continued

Eagles Lodge, 60 East Vincennes Street (photo 8), contributing.

In about 1950, the Eagles replaced a building on this site that had burned in about 1941. The resulting scant two story, stone and brick structure includes several Modern style traits. The first floor is rough limestone range work, the west end of the first floor has a radius cornered recessed entry with double doors of recent vintage: matte aluminum metal and glass doors. Two horizontal openings filled with glass block are to the east of the door. The scant first story stone work stops abruptly at window and door header height. The upper floor is flush tan brick. Over the entry, a carved stone square tablet has a landing or pouncing eagle in relief with a ribbon circling its wings. The ribbon is engraved: "Liberty, Truth, Justice, Equality." A vertical ribbon of steel sash window extends from above the carved tablet to second floor window header height. The two other second floor openings have steel sash windows, with smaller panes surrounding larger central panes. Lintels are flush steel flat bars, visible only on the inside jamb edge. The sills are dressed stone. The coping is a simple dressed stone course.

No address, Northwest corner of East Vincennes Street and 1st Street NE, non-contributing

In 2003, two historic brick and cast iron buildings were destroyed in a fire. A two story brick building replaced them.

Linton Carnegie Public Library, 110 East Vincennes Street (photo 9), previously individually listed.

Linton officials and citizens commissioned Chicago architects Patton & Miller to design the library in 1907. In 1908, the community opened the new building. It is two stories high, resting a raised basement. The base of the building is stone with a concave water table molding. First story walls are brick, and most first story openings consist of a broad Tudor arch of multi-coursed brick and label mold, framing three triangular-headed double hung wood windows with art glass. The centered main entrance has a similar label mold arch. The brick veneering rises to second floor window sill height, at the front corners the brick rises to the roofline as a buttress-like element. The rest of the wall surface is stucco with false half timbering. Windows are segmental arch sash. The front block of the library is side gabled, with a lofty terra-cotta tile clad roof. The rear section has a hip roof. The library was individually listed on the National Register September 22, 2000.

120 East Vincennes Street, contributing.

Although historically other single family dwellings once existed within the district, this is the only one still in use as such. It is a one and one-half story, wood frame Queen Anne cottage dating from c.1895. Walls are clad in aluminum siding, though the house retains its massing and form.

Welch and Cornett Funeral Home, 140 East Vincennes Street, contributing.

A square brick house stood on this site when Harry Welch bought the site in 1932. He remodeled the house extensively, adding tan brick porches and rear sections. The house has a tan brick Tudor arched arcaded porch across the front and side, and flat roofed one story sections to the rear. The core brick structure, a

Description-continued

mid-19th century, cubical, two story brick house with gables on each face, is now covered in aluminum siding.

Vincennes Street, south side.

Linton Ford Sales (now Linton Glass Co.), 109 West Vincennes Street (photo 19), contributing.

In 1923, a local merchant opened the first Ford dealership in Linton. The lot was previously vacant. The building is one story high, and has hollow tile walls faced with dark red brick. The roof is flat behind a raised parapet. The exterior has banks of anodized aluminum windows with brick faced piers in between. The corner entry is chamfered and the parapet steps up several feet on the Vincennes Street elevation. The plain aluminum door with sidelights is a replacement, but the two part transom above it may be original. The glass canopy over the doorway is a recent addition. The most noteworthy feature of the exterior is the Arts & Crafts style ornamental terra cotta. Pier tops have an elaborate cap/tassel form, executed in white terra cotta with recessed panels stained in Lucca Della Robbia blue glaze. Copings are a simple cornice mold of white glazed terra cotta.

89 West Vincennes Street, non-contributing.

Built c.1980, this bank replaced two historic buildings that had suffered a fire.

Wolford's Department Store, 15-19 East Vincennes Street (photo 20, storefront detail, photo 7), contributing.

Built in 1903, at one half block wide and a block long, Wolford's is one of the largest commercial buildings in the district. Although shop windows and doors were replaced c.1960 with aluminum framed units, the Thatcher A. Parker-manufactured cast iron pilasters are still in place, as is the maker's name plate. The transom area of the storefront is hidden behind a diagonal board bulkhead. Upper walls are veneered in Neo-Classical Revival stone work, a treatment that wraps around to the west (Main Street) elevation for one bay. Wall surfaces and pilaster strips are of rock-faced coursed stone. The pilaster strips divide the façade into three sections that are slightly recessed. A central window group is obscured by a large panel. On either side, triple window openings have a dressed stone surround with cornice/stringcourse across the top of all three. Four square attic vents are above the paneled shut central windows. A dressed stone frieze meets flush with the pilasters above the vents, followed by modillion course, cornice, and stone parapet with piers. The central parapet is pedimental with crowning urn, and has a dressed stone arched tablet with raised letters:

"1903/WOLFORD BLOCK." The long flank of the building facing Main has one bay of the stone façade, followed by common brick with stone banding. Boarded over window openings have stone sills and lintels. At the southern end of the Main Street side, an additional storefront terminates the elevation. Three stone piers divide the storefront into a broad doorway area and storefront with recessed door. The windows and doors are post-1945 materials. Over this section of the building, two linked round arches mark the second floor, and the parapet is a stepped gable, with narrow slit vents in the attic level.

Description-continued

33 East Vincennes Street (photo 6), contributing.

Here the storefront retains good integrity – its basic design of recessed entry and shop windows with brick base are likely early if not original. Wood siding reduces the shop windows in size. The tall, Luxfer-style transom adds significant character to the front. Mesker cast the iron pilasters and rolled the steel I-beam lintel, according to the maker's plate on a pilaster. Each pilaster has the usual Mesker roundel/necking/anthemion top. Walls over the lintel are plain painted brick, and an Italianate style sheet metal entablature with swag frieze, angled brackets, and cornice finish off the parapet. A hardware merchant did business from this store for many years in the first half of the 1900s. Building was completed in 1900.

39 East Vincennes Street (photo 6), contributing.

Another Mesker front, identical to 33 E. Vincennes, supports the storefront. The shop windows, brick base, recessed entry, and Luxfer-style tall transom are early in date if not original. The entablature treatment varies from 33 next door in that this building has a plain metal frieze instead of the swags. A pool hall and, in the 1920s, a hardware store, operated here. Built in 1900, a tailor worked here in the 'teens.

65 East Vincennes Street (photo 6), contributing.

In about 1940, this one story brick commercial block replaced several small storefronts. Brick piers divide the front into former window bays; window areas are now filled with brick and small windows centered in each panel. The piers have stone bases. The parapet is plain brick with a simple flat stone coping.

77-79 East Vincennes Street, contributing.

Built c.1907, this two story brick building has a cast iron storefront. Some of the pilasters and the steel lintel with double row of rosettes and the capitals of the pilasters remain visible. A maker's plate labeled Thatcher A. Parker is on a pilaster. The west half of the first floor was completely remodeled with stone veneer work and a flush residential style door. The east storefront has metal edged shop windows and door, c.1960. The symmetrical second floor has two windows on either side of a central window pair, all are 1/1 sash. Continuous sills and wide continuous dressed stone lintels form belts across the façade. Walls are red face brick. A belt of sawtooth-laid brick divides the parapet from the window area. Above this is a tall brick section with header-edged brick panels filled with sawtooth-laid brick. The panels align with and match the window openings below them. The parapet has a brick corbel table, and a central raised panel with corner piers. Pointed cap finials are atop the parapet piers. The second floor of the west bay served as an annex to the adjoining hotel in the first decades of the 20th century. A shipping office and professional offices filled other parts of the building.

New Linton Hotel, 85-89 East Vincennes Street, contributing.

This is the last historic hotel building left in downtown Linton. Various other hotels once stood on the fringes of the commercial core, all have been demolished. Built in 1900, the building is three stories high

Description-continued

with red brick walls. The first floor has brick piers dividing the front into three sections: an east bay with three double hung windows with transom, a center doorway with transom, and a storefront with brick kick panel, shop windows, and recessed entry. A steel lintel with rosettes runs across all three sections. The second and third stories have five bays of 1/1 windows. Each has a stone sill and tall brick flat arch lintel. A brick belt divides the stories, and runs at attic level, just below two vents with stone sills. The parapet has a brick corbel table. A steel fire escape, likely from before 1945, angles down the front of the building. Similar windows and detailing characterize the 1st Street elevation. Called New Linton Hotel for years, and later in its service as a guest house, the Roosevelt Hotel, this building now serves as apartments.

109 East Vincennes Street, non-contributing.

A one story, c.1970 commercial building stands on this site.

129 East Vincennes Street (photo 10), contributing.

A doctor had this one story, flat roofed Moderne style office built in c.1939. Walls are of glazed block. The distinctive radius-cornered front bay is roughly centered in the front wall, an entry with radius-cornered reveal is to the west. Rather than standing up to the sidewalk's edge, the builder gave the structure a less imposing feeling by setting it back 5-6' from the walk.

Statement of Significance

The Linton Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Commerce and its pivotal role in the commercial activities of not just Linton, but all of Greene County. The district is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. The sizable district encompasses a complete range of architectural styles from the most traditional Italianate to the Modernist/International style. There are examples of Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Arts and Crafts, and Art Deco/Art Moderne as well. The downtown also features a variety of cast and pressed metal facades from at least three different companies. The Period of Significance is c.1875-1956.

History and Development of Linton

Greene County, named for Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene, was founded by North Carolina native Thomas Bradford in 1821.¹ Prior to that time the land had been part of Knox, Sullivan, Orange, and Daviess counties.² Bloomfield, located in the center of the county and later the county seat, was the first settlement when it was established in 1818.³ The first European settlers arrived in the area in 1816 and by 1820 the population had reached approximately 400 residents. Settlers arrived in the county from

¹ Biographical Memoirs of Greene County, Indiana (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Company, 1908). p. 253.

² History of Greene & Sullivan Counties, State of Indiana (Chicago: Goodspeed Bros. & Co., Publisher, 1884). p.34.

³ Baber, Uncle Jack. Early History of Greene County, Indiana (Worthington: N.B. Milleson at The Worthington Times, 1875, 1962). p.2.

Statement of Significance-continued

Pennsylvania and Ohio on the National Road; the Carolinas and Tennessee via the Cumberland Gap and Kentucky by the tributaries of the Ohio River.⁴ By 1850 the population had climbed to 12,313 and by 1880 that figure grew to 22,996.⁵

As early as 1840, coal was being mined in Greene County and most of the resources were located along the western edge of the county in present day Wright, Stockton, and Stafford Townships. Stockton Township, location of Linton, was created as early as 1830 but did not reach its current limits until 1869.⁶ An early community called New Jerusalem was founded c.1825 just west of the current site of Linton. It had a post office and store, but eventually the residents relocated directly east toward the present site of Linton. The post office was renamed Linton in honor of William C. Linton by founder John Wickliff Wines c.1836. Linton was from Terre Haute and had served in the War of 1812 and the Indian Wars.⁷ However, the community was not formally laid out until 1850.⁸ Today Linton is the largest municipality in the county, surpassing even the county seat, Bloomfield.

The prosperity and prominence of Linton was founded on the success of the county's coal mines. Although relatively small commercial surface mining operations began as early as the 1840s, the efforts remained limited through the 1860s. These early mines relied on blast furnaces to smelt the coal. Prior to the construction of railroads, coal was transported to various markets by wagon. This was a significant expense for the coal companies and consumed a large portion of the profits. Consequently, blast furnace mining did not last long.⁹ The first deep shaft mine was sunk in 1892 and with it, a transportation, commercial and financial boom began due to the presence of over 50,000 acres of coal veins running at least five feet thick.¹⁰ Linton was recognized as the first coal producing city in the state¹¹ and by 1893 was known as "Magic Coal City" and "Pittsburgh of the West".¹² According to the 1902 special report on mines and quarries for the U.S. Census Bureau the production of coal in the entire state of Indiana in 1892 was 3,345,174 short tons. By 1902 that number had surged to 9,446,424 short tons. Greene County alone counted for 719,164 of the 9,446,424 tons.¹³

Coal Mining & the Growth of the Railroads

The coal and railroad industries had a symbiotic relationship. Until railroads were constructed throughout Greene County, mining was not as large or as prosperous as it was after their arrival. And without the

⁴ History of Greene County, Indiana 1885-1989. (Bloomfield: Greene County Indiana Historical Society, 1990), p. 5.

⁵ History of Greene & Sullivan Counties. p. 53.

⁶ Ibid. p. 244.

⁷ Greene County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory (Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 2000), . p. 44.

⁸ History of Greene & Sullivan Counties. p.246.

⁹ Biographical Memoirs of Greene County, p.202-203.

¹⁰ History of Greene County, Indiana 1885-1989. p.119.

¹¹ Biographical Memoirs of Greene County. p. 302, 304.

¹² Greene County Interim Report. p.44.

¹³ Stats Indiana website 1900 Indiana census, 1902 Special Report on Mines & Quarries, p.213.

Statement of Significance-continued

presence of vast amounts of coal, the railroad companies would have never constructed lines in the area. One made the other possible and profitable, as county histories relate:

Previous to the completion of the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad (in 1868-69), the county was without a direct and practicable means of communication with the distant centers of trade, consequently up to that time there was not incentive or inducement offered the citizens to attempt any development of its mineral resources. And even with the coming of this road, and later of the Narrow Gauge Railroad, the wealth of natural minerals has been slow of development, but enough has been discovered to render it certain that Greene is one of the richest counties in the state in stone and coal, in valuable clays, ocher beds, and iron ores.¹⁴

The coal in Greene County, specifically the western portion, was some of the richest bituminous coal in the country. It was known as non-caking bituminous coal—it didn't crack, there were no pieces of slate or sulfur to pollute it, and there were "no bulky clinkers" left after the coal burned. It burned into white ash and did not disintegrate upon exposure to the elements; both of which were rare qualities.¹⁵

By 1901 there were three different railroads serving Linton: a branch of the Indianapolis & Vincennes, the Illinois Central, and the Southern Indiana.¹⁶ Much of the coal mined in the area was for the Chicago market.

Commerce

The first commercial enterprise in the area was John Wickliff Wines store from c.1837 where he sold dry goods, groceries, hardware, drugs, and notions. He later opened a small horse mill to grind corn and a few vats to tan hides.¹⁷ By 1875 Linton had three dry goods stores, a drug store, a wagon shop, a cooper, a barber, a flour mill, a church, a school and a post office.¹⁸ In 1884 Linton had two general stores, two drug stores, a hardware and agricultural implements store, two grocery stores, one clothing and boot/shoe store, a milliner, a barber, a cooper, two blacksmiths, a livery, two hotels, one secret society (Masons), one church (Methodist), and a grist mill.¹⁹

During the 1890s Greene County was moving from an agriculturally-based economy to one based upon the coal mining industry and its accompanying wealth. This presence of actual currency brought about an "expansion of the mercantile business".²⁰ Technological improvements in mining brought about a boom in the area, especially in Linton. In fact, Linton was considered the "principal shopping center in the

¹⁴ History of Greene & Sullivan Counties., p. 11.

¹⁵ Biographical Memoirs, p.300.

¹⁶ Bloomfield News. May 31, 1901. p.1.

¹⁷ History of Greene & Sullivan Counties. p.246.

¹⁸ Early History of Greene County. p. 77.

¹⁹ History of Greene & Sullivan Counties. p. 246-247.

²⁰ History of Greene County, Indiana 1885-1989. p.8.

Statement of Significance-continued

county”²¹ and the Bloomfield News called Linton “the chief industrial and manufacturing center of Greene County.”²² By 1901 Linton was surrounded by 37 different coal mines and the population was 5,000 residents. According to the Bloomfield Times, Linton had “splendid mercantile banking facilities, an electric light plant, and will soon erect a \$75,000 water works plant”. In contrast, the county seat of Bloomfield had 3,000 residents with an electric light and waterworks plant in process.²³ By 1906 the number in Linton had exceeded 12,000.²⁴ Many of the owners of the mines chose to live in Linton and, therefore, spent their money in town for residences, personal needs/services, and other commercial ventures. In fact

...homes and buildings could not be built fast enough. Each room was in use over stores. Many mines had their own little community: their own company store, their community well and school, as well as rowhouses with two to three rooms. The community store carried necessities and larger stores in town handled more goods.²⁵

The community possessed a variety of commercial services that, based upon various Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, started at the turn-of-the-century and continued into the 1940s. These included clothing and shoe stores, fraternal organizations (Masons, Elks, Knights of Pythias, Oddfellows, Eagles), barbers, furniture stores, restaurants/lunch counters, flour/feed stores, warehouses, meat/butchers, drygoods/variety/5 & 10/drug stores, grocers, confectionaries/bakeries/candy stores, jewelers, undertaker/funeral home, hotel, doctor/professional offices, hardware store, and photographer.

There are other businesses in the district that, while the specific business changed, the core function was similar. A prime example of this is transportation-related enterprises. With the exception of railroads, in 1900 and 1904 transportation was limited to horses so Linton had a livery, a harness shop, and a hay/feed store. According to the 1910 Sanborn, there was a livery, a buggy/harness shop, and bicycle repair. In 1915 there was a harness shop, livery, hay/feed store, a hitching barn adjacent to a garage, a bike/motorcycle repair shop, and a motorcycle shop. By 1921 the automobile had become popular in Linton. However, horses were still in use. Consequently, there is the largest variety of transportation-related businesses during the 1920s. These included auto accessories, harness/auto sales, auto storage, service station, garage/repair, tire vulcanizing, livery, bicycle/motorbike repair, taxi service, and battery service. By 1941, transportation was based upon the automobile. Linton had a filling station, electric motor shop, auto sales/service, used car sales, and a feed/auto storage store.

Various civic buildings were established within the district. The post office and jail/fire station were the earliest public services in downtown Linton. The location of the post office slowly moved south along Main Street until it ended up in its current location in 1934. In 1900 it was located on Main Street where the current Wolford's Department Store building stands. It moved to the west side of Main once Wolford's

²¹ Ibid. p.9.

²² The Bloomfield News, v.25, #27, May 31, 1901. (microfilm), p.7.

²³ Ibid, p.8.

²⁴ History of Greene County, Indiana 1885-1989. p.119.

²⁵ Ibid.

Statement of Significance-continued

constructed their building in 1904. It then moved back to the east side of Main Street by 1910 and appears to have stayed in that location until the move at the southeast corner of Main and A Streets in 1934.

In 1900 the jail and early fire station were free-standing entities in roughly the same location as the current city hall. The jail was a small frame building along the alley and a separate small frame building contained a hand engine and a belltower. By 1904 the jail had not changed but the fire station had expanded the entire depth of the block to include a two story engine house with a hose cart and equipment on the first floor and living space for the firemen on the second. A barn was situated immediately behind the engine house for horses. The same arrangement for jail and fire station existed in 1910 although the jail had been expanded and constructed in brick. In 1913 the city hall building was constructed on the site and the adjacent lot to the west. This new facility included office space for city government, facilities for the fire department across the hall and an enlarged barn at the back. The jail does not appear to have been altered from the 1910 version. No other exterior changes occurred to the building based upon Sanborn Maps through 1941.

Entertainment/socializing was also an important component of life in Linton. In 1900, such activities revolved around the nine saloons, two billiard halls, and the opera house. By 1904 the population of Linton had exceeded 4,000 and the number of entertainment/social venues grew too. There were eighteen saloons/billiard halls and the opera house. On the 1910 Sanborn map “saloons” are referred to as “club rooms”—there are seven in the district along with six pool halls, an opera house, an airdome theater (an early outdoor theater), and three moving picture houses. In 1915 the numbers had shifted to include eleven saloons, two pool halls, and a tobacco/card room. By 1921, saloons and club rooms are referred to as “soft drinks” due to the existence of Prohibition. There were five soft drink establishments, three pool halls, and two motion picture theaters. The 1941 map shows two soft drink establishments, a theater, a bowling alley, and an opera house.

There were a variety of coal mining company stores in Linton. These included Robertson’s (location unknown), Wolford’s (corner of Vincennes and Main), 4th Vein Coal Company Store (northwest corner of Main and A), and the Linton Supply Company (location unknown). Wolford’s, established in 1878, carried all of the better fashion lines and the store’s inventory and unusual sales volume was known statewide. By 1908 they were the largest department store in southern Indiana.²⁶ They closed in the mid 1930s and G. C. Murphy bought the building.²⁷ The Island Coal Company constructed an impressive brick building and was called the Island City Block. The 30,000 square foot Linton Supply Company operated out of the building and, with their staff of twenty-five sales people, sold dry goods, clothing, groceries, hardware, notions, ladies’ and gents’ furnishings, farm wares, household furnishings, miners supplies and meat.²⁸ The store was called “Greene County’s great department store” by The Bloomfield News in 1901.²⁹ In addition to the variety of goods found there, the Linton Supply Company had the most up-to-date equipment including a cash carrier system and “brilliant lighting with arc electric lamps.”³⁰

²⁶ Biographical Memoirs, p.321-322.

²⁷ A Little History of Linton, p.9.

²⁸ Ibid, p.34.

²⁹ The Bloomfield News, May 31, 1901, p.14.

³⁰ Ibid.

Statement of Significance-continued

Given the wealth associated with the mines, there was an increase in cash. This resulted in growth of the local banking institutions. The earliest bank in Linton was the Linton Bank (1895) which was chartered as a state bank in 1906. According to the 1900 Sanborn Map, there was only one bank located within the boundaries for the current district. The Linton Trust Company was established in 1906 and was described as “one of the finest buildings in southern Indiana with a modern Renaissance interior and solid mahogany woodwork”.³¹ In 1903 the 1st National Bank of Linton opened. By 1921, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map identifies four banking institutions within the boundaries of the current district. Unfortunately neither the Linton Trust nor the National Bank of Linton survived the economic downturn in the 1930s.³² However, by 1941 the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map identifies three banks that were operating in the commercial core of downtown Linton.

Another building type in the district is the library. The fact that Linton was the first community in the county to have a library illustrated its standing in the area. It started on the 2nd floor of Wolford’s by the Bay View Library Club, a small women’s club. Lillian Wolford, whose family owned Wolford’s Department Store, was the president of the Bay View Literary Club and was instrumental in establishing a library in town. The original collection included seventy-five donated books. In 1902 the library board petitioned Andrew Carnegie for the funds to build a permanent home for the library. Their request was granted in 1907 and the Tudor/Arts and Crafts style library was completed in 1909.³³ There were two other Carnegie libraries constructed in Greene County-- one in Bloomfield (1911 in the Neoclassical style) and the other in Worthington (1917 in the Craftsman style). All three still exist, but the only one on the National Register is the one in Linton (2000).

Various other services that did not occur on all of the Sanborn Maps include a Chinese laundry (1900), a light and power company (1904 and subsequent maps), an American Express Office (1910), telephone exchange (1910 and subsequent maps), stone cutting (1910 and subsequent maps), wallpaper/paint store (1915 and subsequent maps), water company (1915 and subsequent maps), mine supplies (1921), gas company (1921 and subsequent maps), and milk stations (1921). “Laundry” is identified on several of the maps but only the 1900 maps specifically lists “Chinese Laundry”. An “express office” is noted as early as 1904 but is marked as “American Express” only on the 1910 map. It is also known that various stores were selling mining supplies before 1921 but the 1921 map is the only one to list a distinct store for “mine supplies”. “Milk stations” are another business only found on the 1921 map.

Architecture

The Linton Commercial Historic District is by far the largest and most intact commercial district in Greene County. The Greene County Interim Report identified three commercial historic districts—Linton, Worthington, and Bloomfield. Worthington, located northeast of Linton, has approximately forty sites with only two outstanding and eight notable rated properties. The vast majority of the buildings are Italianate in style, but there are functional Neoclassical buildings and a Craftsman style Carnegie library as well. Bloomfield, the county seat, is located almost due east of Linton. The district there contains forty-six

³¹ History of Greene County, Indiana 1885-1989., p.9.

³² A Little History of Linton., p.4.

³³ Stratman, Tricia. Linton Public Library National Register of Historic Places Nomination (1998), p. 6-7.

Statement of Significance-continued

resources and is centered around the courthouse. Laid out as a Philadelphia square, the buildings on the south side of the square were destroyed by fire in 1995. Of the remaining buildings, three are outstanding and four are notable. Linton's district has 66 contributing resources with two outstanding and fourteen notable. It has a much larger variety of architectural styles represented including: 20th century functional, Romanesque Revival, Modern, Neoclassical, Italianate, Art Moderne, Tudor/Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival. By far, the two most common styles are Italianate and Romanesque Revival. Particular examples of these styles, and the fine craftsmanship associate with them, are detailed in the Description.

One particular feature that stands out in the Linton Commercial Historic District is the presence of several stone buildings. The fact that there are a variety of stone buildings in the district is not particularly surprising given that Monroe and Lawrence counties are immediately east of Greene County. These two neighboring counties are the top limestone producing counties in the state and Bedford (Lawrence County) is known nationally for its limestone. The growth of the limestone industry coincided with that of the mining industry. Considering that an abundance of rail lines were in place to ship both stone and coal, shipping the massive stone west to Linton was not a difficult task.

In addition to the variety of architectural styles, the Linton Commercial Historic District has an impressive collection of twenty-three cast metal facades. Although in existence as early as the 1820s, metal facades did not become common until the second half of the 19th-century. The technology existed to produce more refined components such as narrow pillars which maximized the amount of sunlight through storefront windows. Such facades were touted as strong, stable, durable, light, and most importantly fire-resistant. There was also a flexibility in design that would allow for the production of a variety of shapes and details. Metal facades were considered affordable and relatively easy to construct in comparison to their masonry counterparts.³⁴

The metal facades located in Linton have varying degrees of integrity. There are a few instances of completely intact storefronts, but more often the first floor has been obscured in some way but the upper level and cornice is complete. Three different manufacturers are represented in the district: George L. Mesker & Company, Thatcher A. Parker Company, and Hetherington & Berner Company. The most facades come from the George L. Mesker & Company out of Evansville. This Indiana company received orders from their catalog and shipped their stamped metal and cast-iron facades nationwide by rail. There are fifteen buildings that can be attributed to the Mesker Company either because of identifying plaques or similarities to known Mesker buildings in the district. The Thatcher A. Parker Company in Terre Haute has six facades in the district. Little information is known about the company other than that Parker may have run for Congress (research found no evidence of him winning if he did indeed run) and his family purchased a foundry in Terre Haute in the 19th century. The Hetherington & Berner Company was located in the Haughville neighborhood of Indianapolis. Two of their facades are in the district.

Besides the manufacturers of the metal facades very little is known about the architects that may have been working in Linton during its heyday. Presumably architects that were active in Terre Haute, Bloomington

³⁴ Waite, John G. and Margot Gayle. Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron. (Washington DC: Technical Preservation Services, Nation Park Service, accessed online September 14, 2006.)

Statement of Significance-continued

and the surroundings areas might have been hired by some of the merchants in Linton to design various buildings. One architect that is known is John T. Fritz of Chicago. He designed at least three buildings in Linton, two of which are in the district. Fritz designed Linton City Hall in 1913 and the Cine Theater (with Erwin G. Frederick) in 1938. In 1916 Fritz was hired to design the Saron Reformed Church which still stands but is outside the district.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the northwest corner of the property at 175 North Main Street, proceed east to the intersection of B NE Street and the north-south alley between Main and East 1st Street. Turn south and follow the west side of the alley to a point in line with a line one foot north of the north wall of 50-60 A Street NE. Turn east, cross the alley and follow said line along 50-60 A Street NE. Turn south along a line that is one foot east of the east wall of 50-60 A Street NE and continue across A Street NE to the south curb. Jog to align with the west property line of 89 A Street NE, follow said line south along 89 A Street NE to the south edge of the alley between A Street NE and Vincennes Street. Turn east and follow the south alley edge to the northeast corner of the property at 140 East Vincennes Street. Turn south and follow the east property line of 140 East Vincennes to the north curb line of East Vincennes Street. Follow said north curb line west to a point in line with the east property line of 129 East Vincennes Street. Turn south, cross Vincennes Street, and follow said line to the north edge of the alley south of and parallel to Vincennes Street. Turn west and follow said north alley edge to a point in line with the west edge of the alley parallel to and just east of South Main Street. Turn south along said alley and proceed south to the south property line of 139 South Main Street. Turn west and follow the south property line of 139 South Main Street, crossing Main Street. Align with the south property line of 158 South Main Street and follow said line to the east edge of the alley parallel to and just west of Main Street. Turn north along said alley and proceed to the north property line of 140 South Main Street. Turn east along said north property line and follow across Main Street to the east curb line of South Main Street. Turn north and proceed along the east curb line of South Main to a point in line with the north property line of Linton City Hall, 86 South Main Street. Cross Main Street and follow the north property line of 86 South Main to the east curb line of 1st Street SW. Turn north along said east curb to a point in line with the south property line of 109 West Vincennes Street. Cross 1st Street SW, following the south line of 109 West Vincennes to the east edge of the alley parallel to and just west of 1st Street SW. Turn north and follow to the south curb of West Vincennes Street. Turn east along said south curb and follow to a point in line with the east curb line of 1st Street NW, cross Vincennes Street. Follow the east curb of 1st Street NW to the east-west alley between Vincennes and A Street. At the south curb line of said alley, jog east to align with the east curb of 1st Street NW and continue along said curb line to the south curb of A Street NW. Turn east along the south curb line of A Street NW and follow to a point in line with the west property line of 60 A Street NW. Cross A Street NW, following said property line, to the south edge of the east-west alley between A Street NW and B Street NW. Turn east along said alley

Verbal Boundary Description-continued

edge to the east edge of the north-south alley between 1st Street NW and North Main Street. Turn north along said alley edge and follow to the south curb line of B Street NW. Turn east along said curb line and follow to the point of origin.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The district includes the majority of the main commercial district in Linton. North of North B Street the area becomes residential. This is also the case northeast and northwest of the district. Vincennes Street is State Road 54 and there is more recent commercial construction on both the east and west ends. There has been demolition and new construction/parking in the southwest portion of downtown Linton. There are scattered commercial buildings all around the south end of the district but overall any historic elements have been destroyed.



Photo 1



Photo 5



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 16



Photo 17